

Yona *of the Dawn*



4

Story & Art by

Mizuho Kusanagi



Shojo Beat

Yona of the Dawn



4

Story & Art by

Mizuho Kusanagi

A priest. He and his predecessors were persecuted and exiled from the royal capital to a far-off land. When he met Yun, Yun had nowhere to go, so Ik-su took him in. Later, he urges Yun to travel with Yona despite how deeply he cares for him.



Ik-su

An 18-year-old scion of the royal bloodline. To keep Kohka safe from invasion by the Kai Empire to the north or the nations of Xing and Seil to the south, he is trying to create a powerful nation by uniting the Five Tribes and becoming king.



Su-won

Su-won's father and Il's older brother. Fearless and daring, he was a brilliant warrior and strategist. His death is officially recorded as an accident, but the truth is that he was stabbed to death by Il.



Yu-hon

Kohka's king, until his death. He was seen as cowardly due to his fear of weapons and avoidance of conflict. Years ago, his wife was attacked and killed by bandits. His father, the prior king, chose Il as his heir over Il's elder brother, Yu-hon.



Il



Chief of the Water Tribe
General Ahn Jung-gil



Chief of the Earth Tribe
General Yi Geun-tae



Chief of the Fire Tribe
General Kang Sa-jin



Chief of the Wind Tribe before Hak. Hak's adoptive grandfather.

Mun-deok

STORY

Yona, the princess of the Kingdom of Kohka*, was raised by her kind, loving father, King Il. She has deep feelings for her cousin Su-won, a companion since childhood. On her 16th birthday, she goes to her father's chambers to ask his blessing for a relationship between her and Su-won, but upon her arrival, she sees her father being stabbed to death—by Su-won!

Driven from the palace, Yona and Hak seek counsel from a priest named Ik-su. Ik-su tells Yona that her life will transform the nation and that she must locate the Four Dragon Warriors. He also informs her that the White Dragon, one of the four, is protecting his bloodline in a mist-shrouded village.

When Yona and her companions locate the village and the White Dragon first sees her, his blood immediately burns, and he prostrates himself before her. He vows to serve her and tells her that he can faintly sense the locations of the other Dragon Warriors.

*The Kingdom of Kohka is a coalition of five tribes: Fire, Water, Wind, Earth and Sky. The throne is held by the tribe with the greatest influence, so the current royal family are of the Sky Tribe. The royal capital is Kuuko. Each tribe's chief also holds the rank of general, and the Meeting of the Five Tribes is the nation's most powerful decision-making body.

YONA OF THE DAWN

Story Thus Far



Hak

One of the greatest heroes in the nation, known as the "Thunder Beast." He'd obeyed King Il's orders and became bodyguard to his childhood friend, Yona. He walks away from his position as general in order to protect his tribe.



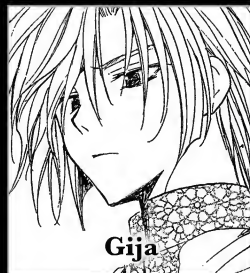
Yona

While on the run, she comes to the realization that she's spent her life being protected by other people. She sets out to locate the Four Dragons in order to protect herself and the people who are most important to her.



Yun

Brilliant and intellectually curious. He may be a mouthy pretty boy, but he takes good care of people. He comes from a poor town in the Fire Tribe lands.



Gija

The White Dragon, one of the Four Dragon Warriors. Though beloved by everyone in his village, he's yearned for a master to serve. His right hand contains a dragon's might and is more powerful than ten men.

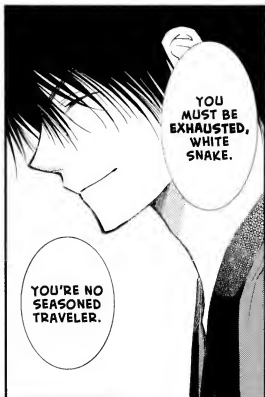
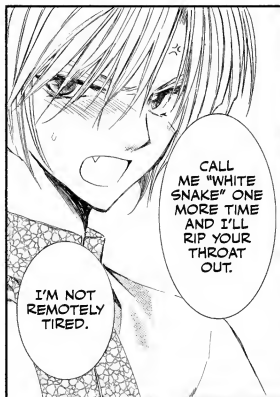


Yona *of the Dawn*

Volume 4

CONTENTS

Chapter 18 The Dragon's Claws	5
Chapter 19 This Way and That	35
Chapter 20 The Tunnel Dwellers	65
Chapter 21 The Blindfolded Dragon ..	95
Chapter 22 Calling to Each Other	126
Chapter 23 Echoes of Fear	159



I have a blog! I post things about my everyday life and news about my work. Please check it out! Comments (and web claps) are always welcome?

Blog name: Mizuho Kusanagi's NG Life

URL → <http://yaplog.jp/sanaginonaka/>

CHAPTER 18: THE DRAGON'S CLAWS

RM

MM

MBL

CAN A
SHELTERED
KID LIKE
YOU EVEN
FIGHT?

She wants
me to *protect*
you when
you're in
trouble.

Yona
of the
Dawn



WE'RE
GOING
TO BE
TRAVELING
TOGETHER,
SO STOP
FIGHTING.

PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME, YOUR
HIGHNESS.



WH

SETTLE
DOWN!

AM



HAK'S
HOBBY IS
PICKING
ON PEOPLE,
SO JUST
IGNORE
HIM!

GIJA!

I'm
not!

GIJA'S
NEVER
BEEN OUT IN
THE WORLD
BEFORE. HE'S
NERVOUS!
DON'T PICK
ON HIM!

HAK!

hobby?



YOU CAN
SENSE
WHERE
THE OTHER
DRAGONS
ARE, RIGHT?

SHOW
ME
WHERE
THE
NEAREST
ONE IS.

FLAP



GIJA.

Hey.

I'M YUN,
GENIUS
PRETTY
BOY.

Nice to
meet you.



Thank you very much for picking up *Yona of the Dawn* volume 4! When I started this series, writing the story felt overwhelming, but I've gotten used to it...kind of. I still struggle with my storyboards. ♪ My editor always helps me out since I'm not terribly creative.



**D-
DON'T
COME
NEAR
ME!**

**W-
WAIT
...!**

**W-W-W-W-
W-WHAT
ARE THESE
CREATURES?!
WHO
PERMITTED
THEM TO
LIVE HERE?!**

**NOOO!
STOP!
STAY
BACK!**



MY DIVINE
POWER WAS
BESTOWED
UPON ME BY
THE GLORIOUS
WHITE
DRAGON.

IT'S FAR
BEYOND
ORDINARY
PEOPLE!



I-I JUST
DON'T LIKE
CREEPY,
CRAWLY,
SQUISHY
THINGS!

THAT'S
NOT IT!

SO A
DRAGON
GOD CAN'T
EVEN
STAND UP
TO SOME
BUGS?



LIKE I'M
GONNA
TRUST SOME
ANCIENT,
MOLDY
POWER.

HOW
NICE
FOR
YOU.



WELL—

DO YOU
WISH TO
FACE IT
RIGHT
NOW?!

WHAT
?!



SHA

WE FOUND
OURSELVES
SOME
FOLKS TO
ROB.

DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
THEY'VE
GOT MUCH,
THOUGH.

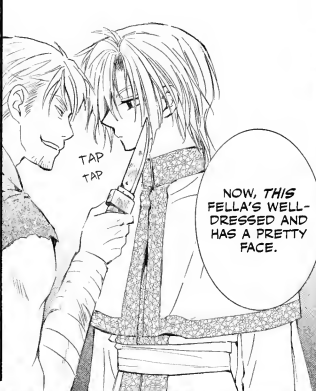
?

DOES
THAT
DISAPPOINT
YOU?

OH, IT'S
JUST
BANDITS.



HEY.



TAP
TAP

NOW, *THIS*
FELLA'S WELL-
DRESSED AND
HAS A PRETTY
FACE.



BUT
THEY GOT
A COUPLE
OF GIRLS!

I'm a
pretty
boy.



I DON'T
YET KNOW
THE DETAILS
OF YOUR
SITUATION...



GO
AHEAD.
OR FEEL
FREE TO
HIDE.



...BUT
YOU DON'T
MIND IF I
TEAR THEM
TO SHREDS,
DO YOU?



HUH?
WHAT'S
WITH YOU?
YOU'RE
SHAKING.



SLUMP...



DON'T
WORRY. IF
YOU DO AS
WE SAY, WE
WON'T KILL
YOU—



HIDE?
WHAT-
EVER
FOR?



T H R O B T H R O B

YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ME...

HUH?

NGH ...!

W H U M P

WHAT'S WRONG ?

I-I DUNNO! HIS ARM BURNED ME!

...SO CARELESSLY.

T H R O B

T H R O B T H R O B

YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH ME...

HUH?

NGH ...!

W H U M P

WHAT'S WRONG ?

I-I DUNNO! HIS ARM BURNED ME!

...SO CARELESSLY.

T H R O B



HUH?
DON'T
BE
STUPID
—

I-I DUNNO!
HIS ARM
BURNED
ME!



HUH?
DON'T
BE
STUPID
—

I-I DUNNO!
HIS ARM
BURNED
ME!





THIS POWER
HAS WAITED
THOUSANDS
OF YEARS TO
PROTECT ITS
MASTER.

EVEN
I CAN'T
CONTROL
IT.



SORRY
FOR THE
WAIT...

...ARM
OF THE
WHITE
DRAGON.



WHAT'S
WITH
HIS
ARM?!

GAAAAH!



HE...



HE'S A
MON-
STER!



I DIDN'T
FIGURE
YOU'D
BE SO
BRUTAL.

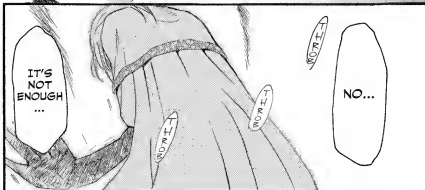
SO THE
DRAGON
SHOWS
HIS
CLAWS,
HUH?

TWITCH



SO,
HAK...

WORTH



IT'S
NOT
ENOUGH
...

WORTH

WORTH

WORTH

NO...



...AS HER
HIGHNESS
COMMANDED
?

SHALL I
PROTECT
YOU...



SHWIP

DON'T
BOTTER.



I COULD
DO THIS
BLIND-
FOLDED!

SH

SHWIP



W-WHAT
ARE
THEY?!



THEY'RE
BARELY
HUMAN!

Gaaaaah!



THE
WHITE
SNAKE'S
PLENTY
WEIRD,
YEAH, BUT
I'M A
NORMAL
GUY!

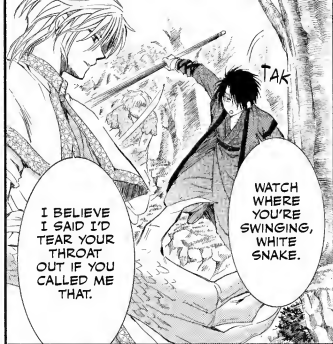
TCH!
RUDE!



WHOA!

SWISH







YOU
IDIOT.

LIKE
I'D TELL
SOMEONE
I JUST
MET?

BLEH



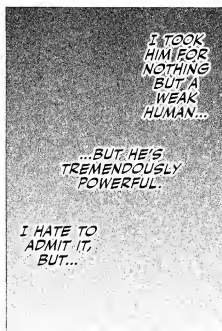
DASH

"IDIOT"
?!



WHA
—?!

GRR



I TOOK
HIM FOR
NOTHING
BUT A
WEAK
HUMAN...

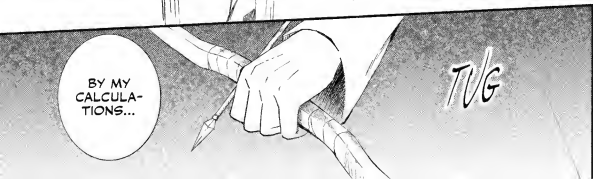
...BUT HE'S
TREMENDOUSLY
POWERFUL.

I HATE TO
ADMIT IT,
BUT...



SWIP

SWISH





S
W
-
I
-
S
H

...
HOSTA
—

HEY!

WE'LL
JUST BE
TAKING
YOU...

GRAB

KA-
WH
AM



THANKS,
BOTH
OF YOU.

YOU
GUYS
ARE
SUCH A
PAIN...

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT,
PRINCESS?

Are you
unharmd,
your
highness?

THE



OH? I
WASN'T
COUNTING.

HOW
MANY
DID YOU
DEFEAT?

SLUMP

HUH?

IS
IT...

...OVER
ALREADY?



THERE
WEREN'T
EVEN
THAT
MANY...
OF...

LIAR!
YOU JUST
SAID YOU
DIDN'T
KNOW!



THEN
I GOT
FORTY.

I beat
28!



...
THEM
...

WOBBLE...

TOPPLE

GIJA?!











...I
WANT TO
PROTECT
HIM.

BUT
SOMEDAY
...

HE'S
ALWAYS
PROTECTED
ME.

YEAH
...

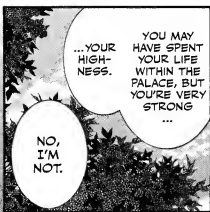
HAK IS
AWFULLY
STRONG.

S
K
F



AFTER
THAT
NIGHT,
NOTHING
ELSE
SEEMS...

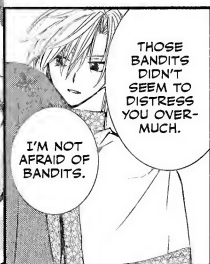
...SCARY
ANYMORE.



...YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

YOU MAY
HAVE SPENT
YOUR LIFE
WITHIN THE
PALACE, BUT
YOU'RE VERY
STRONG
...

NO,
I'M
NOT.



THOSE
BANDIT'S
DIDN'T
SEEM TO
DISTRESS
YOU OVER-
MUCH.

I'M NOT
AFRAID OF
BANDIT'S.

I DON'T KNOW
WHETHER IT'S DUE
TO THE BLOOD
OF THE WHITE
DRAGON THAT WAS
BESTOWED UPON
ME TO PROTECT
THE CRIMSON
DRAGON KING,
BUT...



OF
COURSE.

LET'S
GO.

OH,
YUN'S
CALLING
US.



...I
WANT TO
SUPPORT
HER.

AND I
WISH
TO...

...GIVE
HER MY
STRENGTH.

...BUT SHE'S
TRYING TO
BECOME
STRONGER.

SHE'S
FRAIL AND
SEEMS
ON THE
VERGE OF
TEARS...

**CHAPTER 19:
THIS WAY AND THAT**





...IS
THIS?

WHAT...



IT'S
DINNER.
WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

I look forward to hearing your thoughts!
Mizuho Kusanagi
c/o Yona of the Dawn Editor
Viz Media
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Thank you so much
for sending me your
letters and artwork! ♡



JUST
BE GLAD
WE'RE NOT
HAVING
BUGS
TONIGHT.

No one's
forcing
you to
eat it...
Besides,
weeds
are
edible!
too.

THEY'RE
EDIBLE
WILD
PLANTS.

THEY'RE
NOT
WEEDS!

I saw
you!

THESE
ARE WEEDS
YOU PICKED
WHILE
WE WERE
ON THAT
MOUNTAIN
PATH!

DINNER
?!



...BUT
OTHER-
WISE I'M
USED
TO IT.

I STILL
CAN'T
HANDLE
BUGS...

FOOD
LIKE
THIS...

YOUR
HIGHNESS,
ARE YOU
ALL RIGHT
WITH
THIS?

I
MEAN
...

MUNCH

MUNCH

"Like
this"?



THEY'RE
NUTRITIOUS.

BUGS?!
YOU EAT
BUGS?



LIKING IT
ISN'T
RELEVANT.

...IT'S NOT
AS IF I HAVE
A CHOICE.



WHAT
WAS THAT
ABOUT MY
FOOD?



HER
HIGHNESS
HAS HAD
SUCH A
CRUEL
JOURNEY
...

WAIT —
WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?

IT WAS
TERRIBLE
WHEN IT
WAS JUST
ME AND
HAK.

BUT SINCE
YUN JOINED
US, THE
FOOD'S
BEEN MUCH
TASTIER.



TWII



INJURIES?
WHAT'RE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

HOW'RE
YOUR
INJURIES?

HAK!
YOU'RE
AWAKE!

AND DON'T
CHANGE THE
SUBJECT.
WHAT ABOUT
MY FOOD?



I'M
NOT
GONNA
TAKE
THAT.

I see you've
learned to
dodge my
questions.

CAN YOU
MOVE?
WANT ME
TO FEED
YOU?

NOW,
SAY
"AH"...

...

ARE YOU
SAYING
YOU'RE
HUNGRY?

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
YOU
MEAN.

BEAM

**YOUR
HIGHNESS!
ALLOW ME
TO TAKE
ON SUCH
MENIAL
TASKS.**

Ah
!

SWATCH!

FWIP

NOW THAT
WE'VE EATEN,
WE'VE GOT TO
FIND THE BLUE
DRAGON'S
LOCATION.

You've got
some nerve
trying to
get her
highness to
feed you!

BICKER
BICKER

Things
were just
getting
good, you
stupid
snake.



OR
IS HE
ON HIS
OWN?

DOES
THE BLUE
DRAGON
HAVE A
VILLAGE
LIKE
YOU?

TO BE
HONEST,
I'M NOT
SURE.



OH,
THANKS.
YOU'RE
A BIG
HELP.

I
VAGUELY
SENSE
SOME-
THING
OVER
THAT
WAY...

GIJA,
WHERE
DO YOU
FEEL THE
BLUE
DRAGON?



NOD

BUT IT
WASN'T
DESTROYED,
RIGHT?!

DISAP-
PEARED
?!
?



WHEN
I CLOSE
MY EYES, I
CAN SENSE
THE BLUE
DRAGON'S
PULSE.



...SUGGESTS
THAT
THE BLUE
DRAGON'S
PEOPLE ONCE
LIVED IN
SECRET IN
EARTH TRIBE
LANDS.

INFOR-
MATION
GATHERED
BY MY
COMRADES
ACROSS
THE
NATION
...

NO ONE
SAW HIS
PEOPLE
AGAIN
AFTER
THAT.

BUT ONE DAY,
THE WHOLE
VILLAGE
DISAPPEARED.



THE BLUE
DRAGON'S
TRIBE
PROBABLY
MOVED THEIR
ENTIRE
VILLAGE.

IK-SU
SAID THAT
ALL THE
DRAGONS
BUT YOU HAD
RELOCATED.



THERE
ARE SIX OR
SO PLACES
WHERE A
VILLAGE
COULD BE.

...
TOWARD
THE FIRE
TRIBE.

GIJA IS
POINTING
NORTH-
EAST...

Current
Location

KAI
EMPIRE

↳ This
vicinity

◎ Saika

KIM
OF

MERCHANTS
TRAVEL
THE ROADS
HERE, AND
ARISTOCRATS
HAVE VILLAS
IN THIS AREA.

◎ Fuuga

BUT THERE
ARE TOWNS
IN THE AREA
THAT ARE
ONLY RIVALED
BY THE CITY
OF SAIKA.

NEVER.

HAVE
YOU
EVER
BEEN
THERE,
YUN?





...WE CAN
NARROW IT
DOWN TO
ABOUT SIX.

SO IF WE'RE
LOOKING FOR
UNPOPULATED,
UNREMARKABLE
AREAS...

Fifteen
years
old →

COULD
YOU NOT
TREAT ME LIKE
A LITTLE
KID? I'M
ONLY A YEAR
YOUNGER
THAN YOU.

So
impressive!

YOU
KNOW
EVERY-
THING,
DON'T
YOU,
YUN?

Amazing!

SHUT
UP, WHITE
SNAKE.

BUT...
WAIT...

GOOD
NIGHT
...

GOOD
NIGHT...
WAIT,
WE'RE
SLEEPING
HERE?!

So
good
night!

ALL RIGHT!
TOMORROW
WE'LL START
SEARCHING
FOR THE BLUE
DRAGON IN
EARNEST.



The editor-in-chief came up with the title *Yona of the Dawn*. Coming up with titles is very difficult! (For me, anyway. 8)

I have a harder time thinking up titles than creating storyboards. I struggle with the titles for all of my works and come up with a ton of ideas. At first, Yona was called "Yona of the Flower Crown," but I thought it didn't have enough punch so it was back to the drawing board.

I wanted red to be the heroine's color, so I thought of about thirty titles incorporating it, but none of them quite worked.

To be continued in the next column...



NOT THAT
THAT'S
POSSIBLE.

okay!

TRY TO
BE INCON-
SPICUOUS.

SILVER HAIR

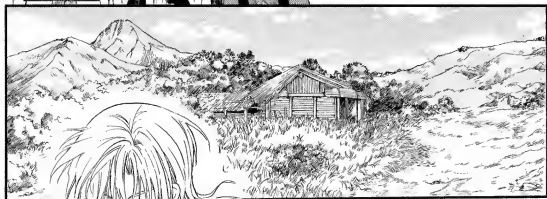
WEIRD-
LOOKING
HAND

RED-HAIRED
PRINCESS

EX-
GENERAL

LISTEN.

WE'RE
GOING TO
BE IN A
TOWN, AND
WE'RE IN...
...FIRE
TRIBE
TERRI-
TORY.



GIJA?



HE'S
NOT
HERE.



HUH?!



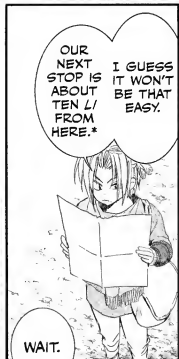
THAT
AREA'S
BEEN
DEVELOPED
RECENTLY.

WHAT
ABOUT
HERE?



WE
CAN'T
GO
THERE.

THE FIRE
TRIBE HAS
A MILITARY
TRAINING
GROUND
THERE.



OUR
NEXT
STOP IS
ABOUT
TEN LI
FROM
HERE.*

I GUESS
IT WON'T
BE THAT
EASY.

WAIT.

*NOTE: ONE LI IS
A CHINESE UNIT OF
DISTANCE THAT'S EQUAL
TO ABOUT 1,640 FEET.





SENSE
ANYTHING,
GIJA?







WOW,
YUN! YOU
KNOW SO
MUCH!

I'LL RUB
HONEYWORT
ON YOUR
LEGS. GET
SOME REST
FOR NOW.



Zzz

Bug!

Eep!

It's
freezing.

SHUDDER

W-WHY
MUST I
SLEEP IN A
PLACE LIKE
THIS?!

WE'VE BEEN ON
THE MOVE FOR
DAYS, STAYING
HIDDEN AND
TAKING INDIRECT
ROUTES.

EVERYONE IS
EXHAUSTED.





HAK AND YUN'S
KNOWLEDGE
IS ALL WE CAN
RELY ON.

...HER
HIGHNESS
WOULDN'T
BE SO
WEARY.

IF I COULD
SENSE THE
LOCATIONS OF
THE OTHER
DRAGONS MORE
ACCURATELY...

THIS IS SO
FRUSTRATING!



BROTHER
WHO SHARES
MY DRAGON
BLOOD...

BLUE
DRAGON...

ARE
YOU...

DON'T
YOU...

I'M
CALLING
OUT TO
YOU...

...LONG
FOR
YOUR
RULER?

...OUT
THERE
WAITING?

...AGAIN
AND
AGAIN.

OUR
MASTER IS
SEARCHING
FOR YOU.

Oh!





WHAT'S
GOING
ON?



I FELL
ASLEEP...



T
H
O
K



BUT IT'S THE
MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT...

YOUR
HIGH—



HER
HIGH-
NESS
...?!



WHA
—?!

Shh.

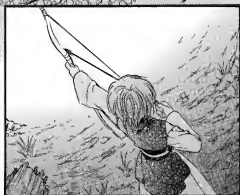
LET
HER
BE.



SHE'D
FIRE A
COUPLE
HUNDRED
SHOTS A
NIGHT.

BEFORE
WE MET
YOU.
WHENEVER
SHE HAD
FREE TIME.

WHEN
DID HER
HIGHNESS
TAKE UP
ARCHERY?



...
BECAUSE
I'M
AROUND.

SHE
DOESN'T
NEED TO
DO ANY-
THING...

YEAH.

AS LONG
AS I'M
HERE, SHE
DOESN'T
NEED A
WEAPON.

WHY
IS SHE
PUTTING
IN SO
MUCH EFFORT?

KEEP IT
DOWN.

A
COUPLE
HUN—

THOK



...CAN'T
FORGIVE
HERSELF
FOR BEING
POWER-
LESS.

...THE
PRINCESS
...

BUT...



SHE'S
STRUGGLING
TO FIND
HER PATH.



"HE'S...
"...ALWAYS
PROTECTED
ME."



SHE WAS
ASHAMED
THAT SHE
COULDN'T
DO THAT
ALONE.

...SHE
ESCAPED
THE
PALACE.
SHE
WANTED TO
SURVIVE
...

WHEN
HER
FATHER
WAS
KILLED...



BUT...

...FIGHT
THROUGH
...

...I DO
WANT
TO SEE
HER...

I DON'T
WANT
HER IN
COMBAT.



EVEN
THOUGH
SHE'S
EXHAUSTED
FROM THE
ROAD...

AREN'T
YOU
GOING
TO STOP
HER...

...FROM
USING
WEAPONS
?



...HER
PROBLEMS.



THAT'S
WHAT
PEOPLE
SHOULD
DO.



I WANT...

...TO BE
OF USE
TO HER.



SO
MANY
BUGS!

I CAN'T
STAND
THESE
BUGS!

WHAK WHAK



I WANT
TO BE
HELPFUL.

"...I
WANT TO
PROTECT
HIM."

"BUT
SOMEDAY
..."

...THE
SAME WAY,
DOESN'T
SHE?

SHE
FEELS...

AH.





IT SEEMED
LIKE YOU
WEREN'T
GETTING
MUCH REST
SINCE YOU'RE
NOT USED
TO SLEEPING
OUTDOORS.

YOU
MUST BE
TIRED.

UM...

What
about
you?



WE CAN'T DO
THIS UNLESS
YOU'RE IN
GOOD HEALTH.

TAKE
CARE OF
YOURSELF.



...BEING
USEFUL
TO YOU?

AM I...



OF
COURSE!

YOU'RE
IRREPLACE-
ABLE.



A
W
W
W

W



YUN?

THE
VILLAGE
OF THE
BLUE
DRAGON!

I'VE
GOT
IT!

IS MY
DRAGON'S
BLOOD
GETTING
STIRRED
UP AGAIN?

TH-
THMP
TH-
THMP

WHAT...?
MY
CHEST
FEELS
TIGHT.

TH-
THMP
TH-
THMP

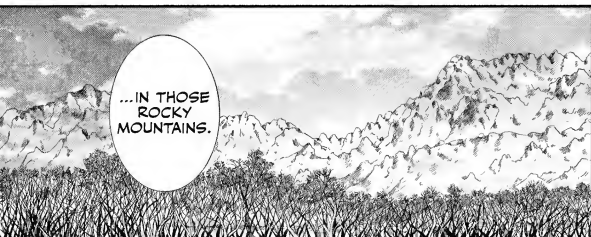


I OVER-
LOOKED
IT.

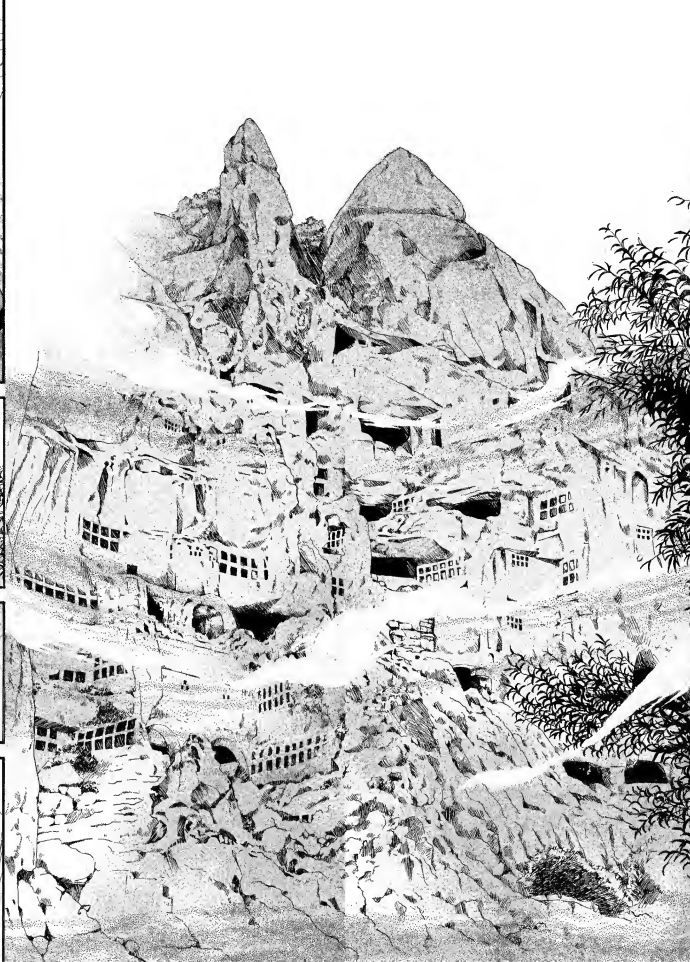
I FIGURED
IT WAS
UNINHABIT-
ABLE.

BUT IT
MUST
BE...

...RIGHT
BY THE
BORDER
...



...IN THOSE
ROCKY
MOUNTAINS.





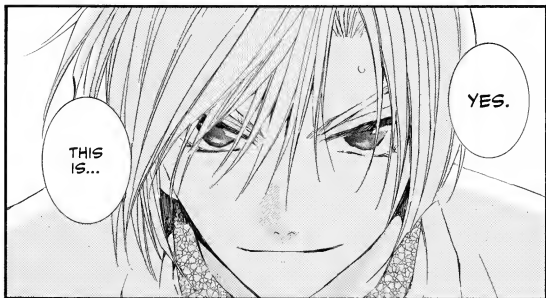
HE'S
HERE.



THE BLUE
DRAGON...

...IS VERY
CLOSE BY.

CHAPTER 19 / THE END





...WHERE
THE BLUE
DRAGON
IS.

**CHAPTER 20:
THE TUNNEL DWELLERS**









THIS IS
MERELY
A TINY,
INSIGNIFICANT
VILLAGE.

YOU
MUST BE
LOOKING
FOR A
DIFFERENT
PLACE.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.



WE DON'T
WANT
TROUBLE.

WE ARE
IMPOVERISHED
PEOPLE WHO
FLED THE MANY
WARS OF THE
FIRE TRIBE...



...BUT I
GUESS
HE'S NOT
HERE.



WE'VE
COME A
LONG WAY
IN SEARCH
OF SOME-
ONE...



I'M
SORRY.

BUT—



IT
SOUNDS
AS IF
YOU'VE
HAD MANY
TRIALS.

COULD
WE REST
HERE FOR
A SHORT
TIME?

...I'll
let you
see.

Just this
once...



WE'RE
EXHAUSTED
FROM OUR
JOURNEY—
AND IN-
JURED!



THAT'S
QUITE ALL
RIGHT.
THANK YOU.

WE CAN'T
OFFER
YOU MUCH
HOSPITALITY,
BUT...

AS YOU
CAN SEE,
WE ARE
VERY POOR.





IT MUST
SEEM
STRANGE TO
OUTSIDERS.

THAT'S
SO INTER-
ESTING.



THOSE
WHO ARE
UNMARRIED
MAY NOT
SHOW THEIR
FACES
PUBLICLY.

IT'S A
LOCAL
CUSTOM.

WHY
ALL THE
MASKS?



OH, ONE
MORE
THING...



DO TRY
TO STAY
PUT.

THE
CAVERNS ARE
LABYRINTHINE.



...IF
ANYTHING
HAPPENS
TO YOU.

WE
WON'T BE
RESPON-
SIBLE...

✧ Continued from the previous column.

I didn't know what to do, but then the editor-in-chief suggested "Yona of the Dawn." My editor and I agreed that it sounded good. (I was in Tokyo for a meeting when it happened.) Morning and daybreak... I thought of several titles that carried the image of dawn, so it stuck with me. Thank you, editor-in-chief! The title logo is very pretty. I love it! ♡ I used to be so nervous whenever I was at the editorial office, but I've gotten used to it. (Smile) The editors are always helping me out.

IS THIS
REALLY THE
VILLAGE OF
THE BLUE
DRAGON?

WELL, THE
WHITE DRAGON'S
VILLAGE WAS
SO WELCOMING.
THESE PEOPLE
DIDN'T EVEN
BLINK AT YOUR
RED HAIR.

They
didn't
try to
capture
us either.

WHY
DO YOU
ASK?

...THE
BLUE
DRAGON
HERE.

I DEFIN-
ITELY
SENSE...

Y-
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS
...!







OH,
THAT MAKES
SENSE. THE
BLUE DRAGON
CAN SENSE
THE WHITE
DRAGON.



IT'S
PROBABLY
BECAUSE
YOU'RE SO
STUFFY.



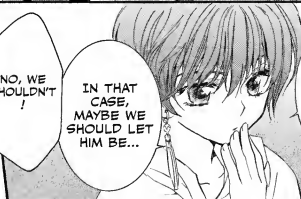
HE MUST
KNOW
WE'RE
NEARBY.

WHY
ISN'T HE
SHOWING
HIMSELF
?!



NO, WE
SHOULDN'T
!

IN THAT
CASE,
MAYBE WE
SHOULD LET
HIM BE...



MAYBE HE
DOESN'T
WANT TO
COME OUT.



...HE
SHOULD
BE
WAITING
...

SO...



LIKE ME,
THE BLUE
DRAGON AND
HIS BLOOD
HAVE A
LONG, LONG
HISTORY.

PLEASE
DON'T
GIVE UP.



HE'S
WAITING
FOR
YOU.

...WHO
NEEDS
HIM.

...FOR A
MASTER

...



...NO
OTHER
DESIRE.

WE
HAVE

...

IT'S OUR
ENTIRE
REASON FOR
EXISTENCE!

THE BLUE
DRAGON
WANTS
TO MEET
YOU!

...WITHOUT
FULFILLING
THAT NEED.

BUT HE
DIED...

I'M
SURE
OF IT.

MY FATHER,
THE
PREVIOUS
WHITE
DRAGON...

...EAGERLY
AWAITED A
MASTER.



BUT...

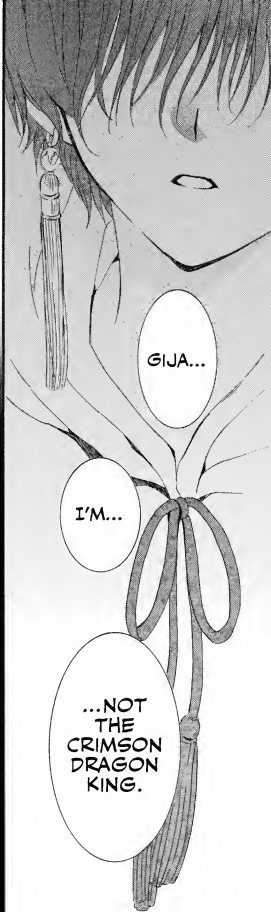
RIGHT
...



BUT
CRIMSON
DRAGON
KING OR
NOT...



...I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE.



GIJA...

I'M...

...NOT
THE
CRIMSON
DRAGON
KING.









AN
ANIMAL
...?!



RUMBLE RUMBLE



PU-KYU

OH!
♡

HOP!



PU-KYU



THERE'S
A
PASSAGE-
WAY!



FW

SH

HUH?



YUN!

NO
ONE'S
HERE.

I DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
TO GO.



HAK!

THE
TORCHES
IN THIS
PASSAGE
WENT
OUT!

GIJA
!

WHAT
DO I
DO?!

ARE YOU
LOST?





GIVE ME
YOUR
HAND...

DO
YOU
LIVE
HERE?

Y-
YES...

YES.



DID
YOU GET
SEPARATED
FROM YOUR
FRIENDS?



THANK
GOOD-
NESS!

TMP



THANK
YOU!

I'LL TAKE
YOU BACK
TO THEM.



THE BLUE
DRAGON?

I'M SORRY!
BUT THERE'S
SOMEONE
I HAVE TO
FIND—

THE
VILLAGE
ELDER
TOLD YOU
THIS PLACE
WAS A
MAZE.

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
WHAT
I'D DO.

I WAS
SO
SCARED.





WAIT...



WHY...

...ARE WE
HEADING
DOWN?



THIS
ISN'T...

...THE
WAY BACK
TO THE
OTHERS.









PU-KU!



THE SOUND OF BELLS...

HE'S WEARING A MASK?

DOES HE LIVE HERE?



SOMEHOW...



...I'M NOT SCARED OF HIM...

...AT ALL.



MUM...



WHO IS THAT?



DASH DASH



DING



DING



ARE YOU...

IS IT
POSSIBLE?

PRINCESS!



MAKE
SURE
YOU STAY
WITH
US, YOU
TWIT!

Don't
make us
worry like
that!

YOU
DUMMY
!

SIGH

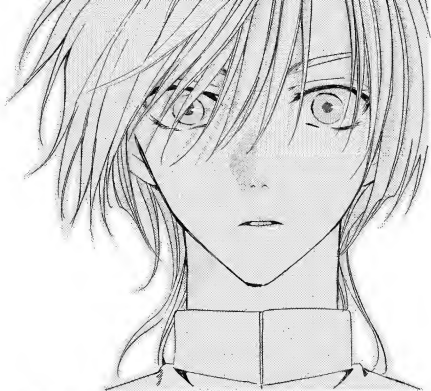
I'M
SORRY.

BUT
THIS
PERSON
SAVED
ME...

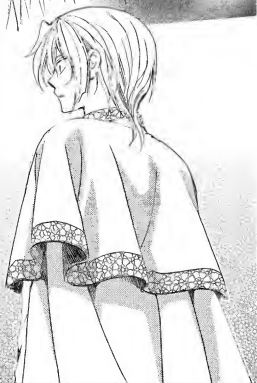


ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?!

TMP
TMP



YOU'RE
...







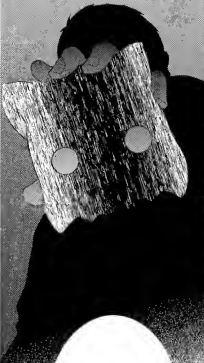
**EIGH-
TEEN
YEARS
AGO...**

**...IN EARTH
TRIBE
LANDS,
AT THE
MOUNTAINS
NEAR THE
BORDER...
IN THE
VILLAGE OF
THE BLUE
DRAGON...**

**A
NEW...**



**...MONSTER
WAS BORN?**



BUT
FOR NOW,
THE BABY
MUST BE
MASKED...



WHO
WILL TAKE
CARE OF
THE BLUE
DRAGON?

...BEFORE
HE COMES
INTO HIS
POWER.

THE
CURRENT
BLUE
DRAGON,
ACCORDING
TO THE
LAW.



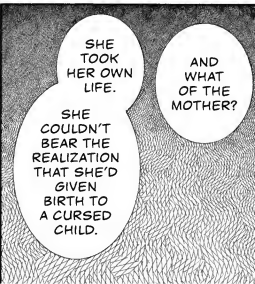
AN
INFANT
WITH THE
EYES OF
THE BLUE
DRAGON.

YES.



HE'LL
BECOME
THE BLUE
DRAGON
ONE DAY.

WON'T THIS
CURSED
POWER EVER
LEAVE US?



SHE
TOOK
HER OWN
LIFE.

SHE
COULDN'T
BEAR THE
REALIZATION
THAT SHE'D
GIVEN
BIRTH TO
A CURSED
CHILD.

AND
WHAT
OF THE
MOTHER?

CHAPTER 21:
THE BLINDFOLDED DRAGON

**MY FIRST
MEMORY...**

**...WAS OF
DARKNESS.**



SO IS
IT TRUE
THAT THEY
PUNISH
VILLAGERS
...

THEY
DO?

HE
TURNED
FOUR THIS
YEAR.

HE
AND THE
PREVIOUS
BLUE DRAGON
SLIP OUT OF
THE VILLAGE
EVERY
NIGHT.

HOW IS
THE BLUE
DRAGON
DOING?

...WHO
LEAVE?

YES...BUT
WHAT CAN
WE DO?

SPIN,
SPIN!

THIRL THIRL

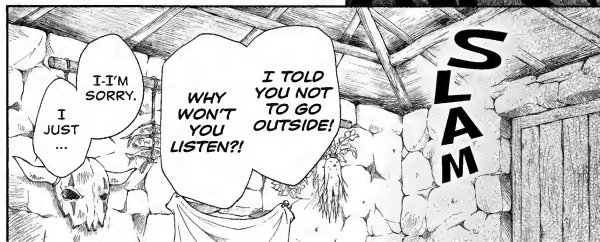
AH!

BUMP

YAY!

YEAH!







OH?



...WANTED
TO MAKE
FRIENDS.



THAT WILL
NEVER
HAPPEN!
NOW STAY
INDOORS!

UH...
UM...

AND DID
IT LOOK
LIKE YOU
COULD
MAKE ANY
FRIENDS?
WELL?!



IS THE
BLUE
DRAGON'S
POWER...
...EVIL?

WHY ...
...IS
EVERY-
ONE ELSE
SCARED
OF US?

YOU
WERE
THE BLUE
DRAGON
TOO...
...
RIGHT?



AO...

YOU'RE
SUCH A
TRIAL!



THE PEOPLE
OF OUR
VILLAGE
BELIEVE THAT
STUPID
LEGEND.

WHAT?!

THAT OLD
STORY ISN'T
TRUE, BUT...



THEY SAY
THAT ANYONE
WHO SEES THE
BLUE DRAGON'S
EYES TURNS
TO STONE.

AND
OCCASION-
ALLY...

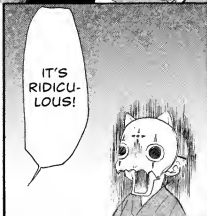


...THE EYES
OF THE BLUE
DRAGON
ARE ABLE TO
PARALYZE
PEOPLE WHO
SEE THEM.



...THOSE
PEOPLE'S
HEARTS
GIVE OUT.

EITHER
WAY, IT'S AN
UNSETTLING
POWER.



BUT...
BUT THAT
MEANS I
REALLY AM
CURSED...



EVERYONE
INSISTS
ON
BELIEVING
SUCH
UTTER
NON-
SENSE!

**B
A
M**

...IT GETS
REPLACED
WHEN A
BABY IS
BORN!

EVEN IF
A BLUE
DRAGON
DIES...

WHO
CARES
ABOUT
SOME
ANCIENT
POWER
?!

WHY
DOES
IT
HAVE
TO
CLING
TO THIS
VILLAGE
?!





ARE
THEY
CLOSE?

THEY'RE
LOOKING
THIS WAY.

THEY'VE
MADE
CAMP.

...

BLAST
IT!



AO.

BAD
PEOPLE
ARE
COMING
...
HERE. ...



AO!



AO'S
EYES...

DRAG

DRAG

BUT MY
EYES...

...WERE
GETTING
WEAKER
EVERY
DAY.



OH—

DON'T...
BOTHER
WITH
ME!



I COULD SEE
FARTHER
AND FARTHER
AWAY.

...SEEMED TO
BE ABSORBING
HIS POWER.



OH?
AM I SO
VALUABLE?

?!


SOUNDS
FAR-
FETCHED.

BUT IT'S
A STORY
THAT COULD
CATCH SOME
NOBLE'S
FANCY.

IF WE
CATCH
HIM,
MAYBE WE
CAN SELL
HIM FOR A
HEAP OF
MONEY.

YEAH. I HEAR
THERE'S
SOME GUY
WITH WEIRD
POWERS.

CRACKLE
THAT
TOWN,
HUH?

A
"DRAGON'S
POWER,"
THEY SAY.



I WON'T
USE ANY
STRANGE
POWERS.

UNFORTUNATELY
FOR YOU, I'M
NOTHING BUT
AN ORDINARY
SWORDSMAN.



...YOUR
LIVES WERE
SHORT.

YOU WHO
THREATEN
OUR
VILLAGE...

ENJOY
YOUR
NEXT
ONES.

AO
WAS
...



YOU
NEED TO
LEARN
SWORDS-
MANSHIP,
AND
QUICKLY.

BUT...



DID YOU
SEE HOW
I USED MY
SWORD?

YES.

...STRONG
EVEN
WHEN HE
COULDN'T
SEE.



AH!



...ON
BAD
PEOPLE?

...
EYES
...

WHY
NOT
...
USE
YOUR
...

...WHY
DO YOU
USE A
SWORD?



LISTEN,
BLUE
DRAGON!

...BUT
YOU MUST
NEVER
USE
THEM!

I'LL
TEACH
YOU TO
CONTROL
THEM...

THOSE
EYES
ARE
CURSED.



...YOU'LL
ALWAYS
BE
HATED.

BUT
EVEN
IF YOU
DON'T
USE
YOUR
POWER...

PEOPLE
WILL
TARGET
YOU...

...
BECAUSE
OF IT.

...



IF
YOU DO,
YOU'LL
SUFFER
FOR IT
TOO.

YOU'LL
SHARE
THE
PARALY-
SIS YOU
INFLECT.

IT'S A
DOUBLE-
EDGED
SWORD!



...TO
MAKE
FRIENDS
?

...WILL
I BE
ABLE...

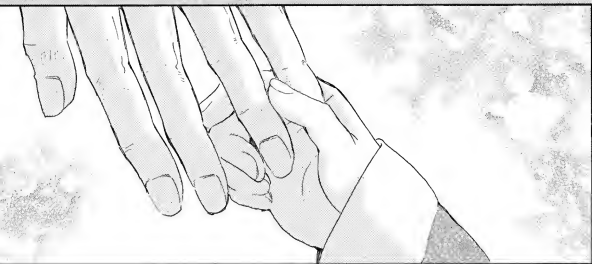
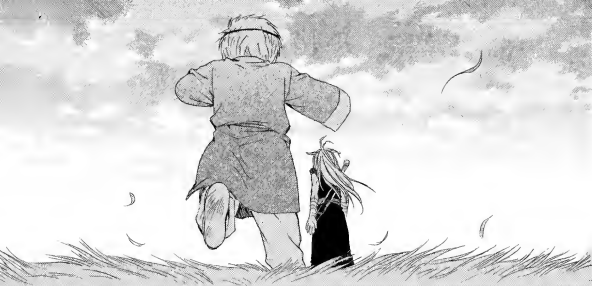
THEN
...

...AND
PROTECT
THE
VILLAGE
...
WITH A
SWORD
...

...IF I
DON'T
USE MY
EYES...







HE WAS
STRICT.

HE
TAUGHT
ME TO
USE THE
POWER
OF MY
EYES.

AO
TAUGHT
ME
HOW TO
USE A
SWORD.

BUT...

...HE
KEPT ON
GETTING
WEAKER.



About the last panel of this page...

At first, I didn't draw strings on the masks.



Kusanagi's Younger Sister Asks

His mouth isn't covered.

He holds it in his mouth?



Mikorun (Assistant) ↗

It's attached with double-sided tape!

Rurunga (Assistant)

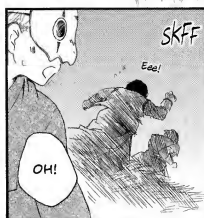


I think it works like the NuBra!

Kyoko (Assistant)



If you ever visit the Village of the Blue Dragon, get me one of their famous masks made of NuBra material!



MY
POWER
IS GONE
AT LAST!

YES!

MY
BODY
HAS
GONE
NUMB!

I'M
FREE!!

FINALLY!
I CAN
FINALLY
DIE!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!



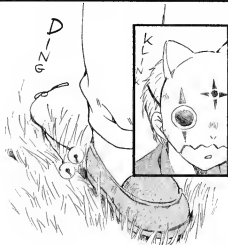
...ANY-
THING
AT ALL...

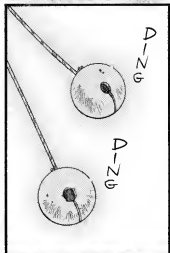
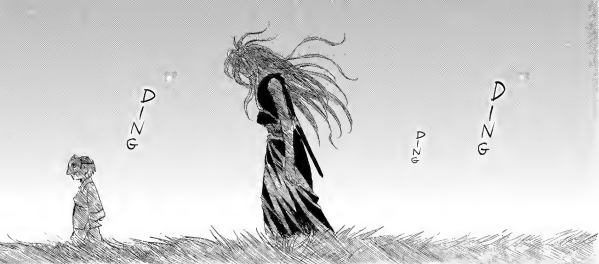
I CAN'T
SEE...

I...
CAN'T
SEE.

...
HUMAN!!

I'M
...







LET'S
TALK
ABOUT...

...SOME-
THING
ELSE.

BUT...

...I'M
STUPID...

...SO I
DON'T
KNOW...

...WHAT
TO SAY.

SAY
SOME-
THING,
AO...

PLEASE...

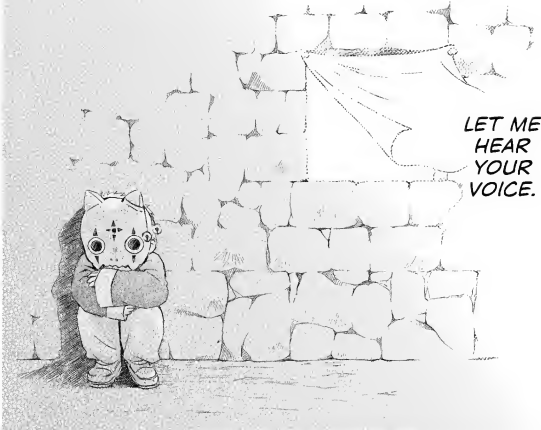
AO...

COME
ON...

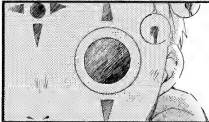
...AO.

G-N-D





LET ME
HEAR
YOUR
VOICE.



THE
PREVIOUS
BLUE
DRAGON?!

...THE
OLD ONE
LOSES HIS
STRENGTH
AND SLOWLY
DIES.

I HEAR
THAT WHEN
A NEW BLUE
DRAGON IS
BORN...

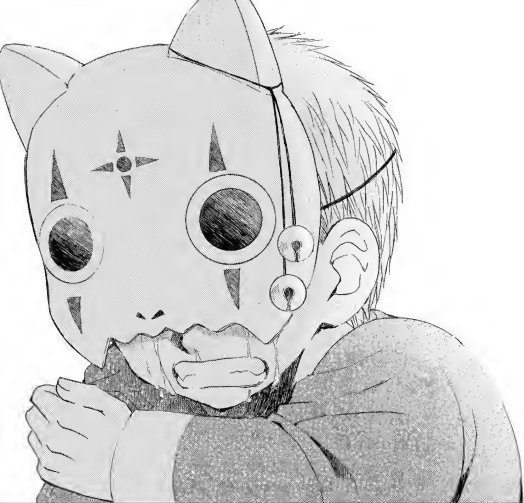
HE
LASTED
LONGER
THAN MOST.

YEAH,
FINALLY.

"I DON'T
NEED TO SEE
TO KNOW
WHERE YOU
ARE."

"THAT'S
A GOOD
IDEA."

I GUESS
THAT MEANS
ALL OF HIS
WRETCHED
POWER HAS
GONE TO THE
CURRENT BLUE
DRAGON.



**I'M
RIGHT
HERE.**

D--D
G--G



GASP



IT
LOOKS
LIKE...

...A LOT OF
SOLDIERS.



SOME-
THING'S
OUT
THERE.



BUT...

...TO
DEFEAT
THEM.

I'M NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH
WITH THE
SWORD...



THOSE
MEN WHO
ESCAPED...

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

...TOLD THE
EARTH TRIBE
WE'RE HERE?

...WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN...?

TH-
THMP

IF THEY
KNOW
ABOUT
US...

IF THEY
LEARN THE
VILLAGE'S
SECRET...

TH-
THMP

THEY'LL
FIND ME
RIGHT
AWAY...

...BECAUSE
OF MY
MASK.



TH-
THMP

"THOSE
EYES...
NEVER
USE
THEM!"



BUT
EVEN IF
IT IS...

...AO...

IT'S A
CURSE.

...BECAUSE
I HAVE
THIS
POWER.

...AND THE
VILLAGE
IS IN
DANGER...

EVERY-
ONE IS
SCARED
OF ME...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

DASH

...DEFENDED
THIS
VILLAGE.

I'M SORRY, AO.

I...

THIS POWER...

...REALLY SHOULDN'T

SHOULDN'T
BE USED.

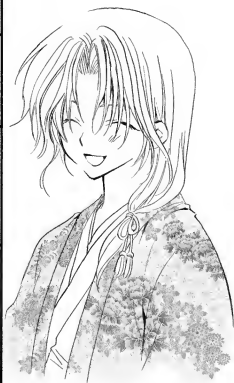
CHAPTER 21 / THE END

CHAPTER 21 / THE END

CHAPTER 21 / THE END



Long
time
no
see.



CHAPTER 22:
CALLING TO EACH OTHER

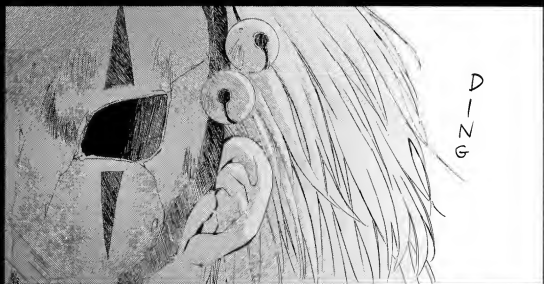


What do
babies
eat?

They left a baby
with me? I don't
know how to do
anything
but fight!

And so far
he hasn't
cried at all.
I hope he's
not dead...





**MY EYES
ARE
THROBBING
TODAY.**

AN OUTSIDER?

STOP!

NO!
LET
GO!

A SMALL, WEAK GIRL FROM THE SOUND OF HER.

HAK!

HAK...

SOMEONE'S TRYING TO TRAP HER UNDERGROUND.

I CAN'T LET THEM DO THAT.

GRAB





"YOU MUST
PROTECT
AND LOVE
HIM ALL THE
DAYS OF
YOUR LIVES
AND
NEVER
BETRAY
HIM."

"YOU MUST
SERVE THE
CRIMSON
DRAGON."

"YOU
ARE NOW
EXTENSIONS
OF US."

WHAT?

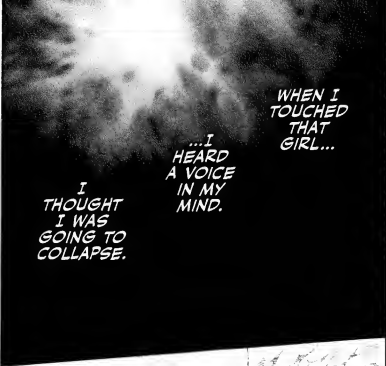
"DRAGON
WARRIORS..."

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?!

WHAT'S
THAT
VOICE?!

THUMP





I
THOUGHT
I WAS
GOING TO
COLLAPSE.

...I
HEARD
A VOICE
IN MY
MIND.

WHEN I
TOUCHED
THAT
GIRL...

MY
EYES...

...ARE
THROBBING.



"WAIT!"

A-Z

WHAT
MAKES
ME THINK
HE WAS
THE WHITE
DRAGON?

WAIT.

AND THE
WHITE
DRAGON
WAS
THERE—

...LEARN
OF MY
POWER
AGAIN...

MY
EYES
—!

STAY
CALM.

NO
ONE...

WHY...

...DOES MY
BLOOD...

...FEEL
LIKE...

...CAN
EVER...

...IT'S
BOILING?

ONE
OF THE
VILLAGERS
TRIED TO
DRAG YOU
UNDER-
GROUND?!



Ao is featured in the story about the Blue Dragon's past. Of all the characters in any of my series, he's probably the kind of guy I like most. (Laugh)

But "favorite character" and "favorite character type" are slightly different things. I just really like bestial people with long, scraggly hair and scruffy faces.

I wanted to keep drawing Ao, but alas, he's a one-off character. ̄̄ I'm glad I got to draw him though.

He may be my favorite type, but that doesn't mean I put more effort into him than the other characters! I focus on the heroine and her companions the most, because I want the heroes to do their very best.



WHAT
EXACTLY IS
HAPPENING
HERE?

THE BLUE
DRAGON...
THESE
VILLAGERS
...



...IT'S THE
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE
OF THE
VILLAGE OF
THE WHITE
DRAGON.

IT MAY
BE A
DRAGON
VILLAGE,
BUT...



BUT
FOR ALL
WE KNOW,
HOW
THINGS
ARE **HERE**
IS MORE
THE NORM.

THIS
PLACE SEEMS
UNNATURAL
AFTER **YOUR**
VILLAGE.

HM?



THAT
CAN'T
BE!

THE BLUE
DRAGON
MIGHT
HONESTLY
THINK OF
US AS
INTRUDERS.



AND THEY
DON'T SEEM
TO SEE THE
POWER OF
THE DRAGON
GODS AS
SOMETHING
SPECIAL.

THE PEOPLE
HERE DON'T
WORSHIP
RED HAIR.



THAT'S
WAY TOO
QUICK.

See,
that's
definitely
not
normal.

I LEFT
MY VILLAGE
ONLY HALF
A DAY
AFTER
MEETING
HER HIGH-
NESS!

THE FOUR
DRAGONS
WISH TO
JOIN THEIR
MASTER AS
SOON AS
POSSIBLE!



I'D LIKE
TO SPEAK
TO HIM.

HE HAS
SUCH
GENTLE
HANDS.



IT'S NOT
A COMPLI-
MENT.

NATU-
RALLY!

SMUG

BUT
THE
BLUE
DRAGON
SAVED
ME.



YOU
JUST
HAD A
TERRIFY-
ING
EXPERI-
ENCE...

...BUT
YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
FAZED.

DOES
THAT
MEAN
WE'RE
GOING
BACK
INTO THE
MAZE?

YES.



YOU'VE
GOT
GUTS...

...YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.



GRAB



THERE WAS
SOMETHING
AT THAT
DEAD END,
RIGHT?

LET'S
GO.



YOU
STAY PUT,
PRINCESS.



HAK?

Finding
the
Dragon
Warriors
is my
job.

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?
I SHOULD
BE THE
ONE TO
GO.



Hey, I
don't like
violence.

YUN AND
I WILL
DRAG THAT
DRAGON
OUT BY
THE TAIL.



YOU
SHOULD
WAIT OUT
HERE AND—

NO.

ANYWAY,
I DON'T
WANT YOU
GOING
IN AGAIN,
PRINCESS.



WHAT?
!

Handle
it on
your
own!

GO TO
IT, WHITE
SNAKE!
WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOU.





I BELIEVE
THAT'S
WHAT HAS
TO HAPPEN.

PLEASE.



SINCE I'M
NOT GOING
WITH YOU,
I GUESS
THAT'S MY
JOB.

SOMEONE
NEEDS TO
KEEP WATCH
FOR THOSE
VILLAGERS
OUT HERE.



HAK...?



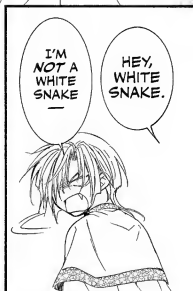
I'LL
TRY NOT
TO LET
THE SAME
THING
HAPPEN
AGAIN.



Don't
sulk.

I
KNOW
I CAN
COUNT
ON
YOU.







I
GUESS
...

WELL
...

...I'LL
DO MY
BEST TO
INTIMIDATE
YOU.

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS...

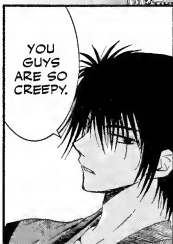
YOU'RE
A LITTLE
SCARED,
AREN'T
YOU?



THEY'RE
WATCHING.

THEY'VE
HAD THEIR
EYES ON
US...

...ALL
ALONG.



YOU
GUYS
ARE SO
CREEPY.



WHEN HAK'S AROUND, I END UP RELYING ON HIM TOO MUCH.

DON'T SAY THAT OUT LOUD, YUN!

I MEAN, THUNDER BEAST ISN'T AROUND.

You've been shivering since we got here.



...SERVED MY FATHER, NOT ME.

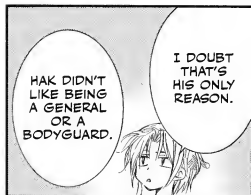
...HAK...



WELL, HE PROBABLY WANTS YOU TO RELY ON HIM.

YEAH.

BUT ...



HAK DIDN'T LIKE BEING A GENERAL OR A BODYGUARD.

I DOUBT THAT'S HIS ONLY REASON.



I'M STILL NOT UP TO IT, BUT...



...HE'S STILL FOLLOWING MY FATHER'S ORDERS, EVEN NOW.

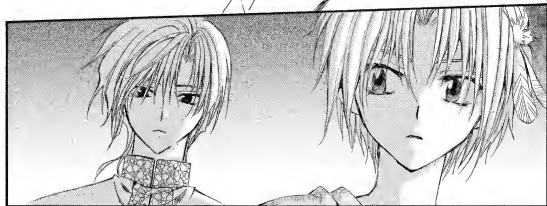
AND...



...I'D
LIKE TO
GIVE HIM
BACK...

...
SOME-
DAY!

...HIS
FREE-
DOM.



ALL
RIGHT,
LET'S
DRAG
HIM
OUT.

THE
BLUE
DRAGON
HAS
TO BE
THERE!

YES.

THERE'S
A HIDDEN
PASSAGE-
WAY IN
THIS DEAD
END?!

WHAT
?!





I AM THE
WHITE
DRAGON...

...AND I
SHALL NOT
PERMIT
YOU TO GO
NEAR HER.

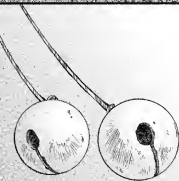


THOSE
WHO GO PAST
THIS POINT
CANNOT BE
ALLOWED TO
RETURN—

SILENCE
...



...INSOLENT
FOOL.
YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN
THE
IMPORTANCE
OF THE
CRIMSON
DRAGON.



THE WHITE
DRAGON...

...IS
NEARBY.

D
N
G



TH-
THMP



IF
THEY'RE
ENEMIES
...

...I'LL
DEFEAT
THEM.



...COMING
DOWN THE
PASSAGE-
WAY.



TH-
THMP

ARE THEY
SEARCHING
FOR ME?

ARE THEY
INTRUDERS?

TH-
THMP

I CAN
TELL THE
VILLAGERS
ARE
WORRIED.



TH-THMP

HELLO
THERE.



WHO IS SHE?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

THROB

THROB





PU-KYU!

He's pointing
a sword
at us! He's
breathing
hard!
I-I'm just a
pretty boy!

I'M
CALLING
GIJA.

HE'S
DANGER-
OUS!
SERI-
OUSLY!

HE LIVES
IN THESE
TUNNELS
AND
WEARS
THAT
MASK!

WHAD
WHAD

He...
HE'S
TROUBLE,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!



WHAT'S
WITH
THIS TINY
ANIMAL?
ITS CHEEKS
ARE SO
STUFFED!

It's
got too
much in
there.



HELLO
AGAIN!

OH!
♡

PU-
KYU!

S
T
A
R
E

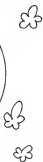
HUH?!



...ITS
NAME?



WHAT'S
...







BLUE
DRAGON
...

...



NO, NO,
YOUR
NAME.



SKFF



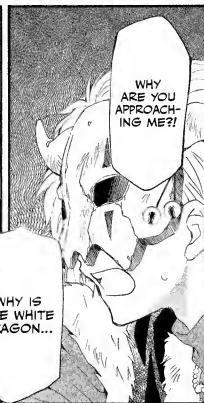
I
DON'T
HAVE
A...

...
NAME.

I'M JUST
CALLED
"BLUE
DRAGON."



THAT'S
NOT
YOUR REAL
NAME,
IS IT?





...TO
MEET
THIS
GIRL...

I WANT
YOU TO
COME
WITH ME.

**CHAPTER 23: ♣
ECHOES OF FEAR**





A special thanks!♥

My assistants → Mikorun, Kyoko, Rurunga, Ryo Sakura and my little sister...

My editor Yamashita, the Hana to Yume editorial office and Naato...

Everyone who helped me create and sell this manga...

Family and friends who supported me, and my readers!♥

Thank you for always helping me out. And thank you for making me want to continue drawing this manga!

The Blue Dragon has a squirrel named Ao, but the name doesn't really suit it, so at our workplace, we call it "Pu-kyu." †
It gets confusing since the previous Blue Dragon had the same name. If any of you get confused, please call it Pu-kyu too! There's always something stuffed in its cheeks. †

Su-won hasn't made an appearance lately. I felt bad for any Su-won fans ☹, so I drew a mini comic with tiny Su-won (and the ever-popular Mun-deok). I eventually have plans for Su-won, but it looks like the search for the Dragon Warriors will continue for a while longer. Coming up next is volume 5. I hope you'll read it! Thank you very much! ☺







DRAGON WARRIORS...



YOU ARE NOW EXTENSIONS OF US.

WHAT...





TREMBLE

WHAT
ARE
YOU...?

WHY...

...IS MY HAND
SHAKING?

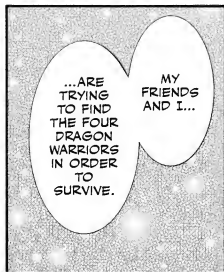
...
KNOW
YOU.

I...
I DON'T
...

TREMBLE

I FEEL
LIKE...
CRYING...

WHY
...?



...ARE
TRYING
TO FIND
THE FOUR
DRAGON
WARRIORS
IN ORDER
TO
SURVIVE.

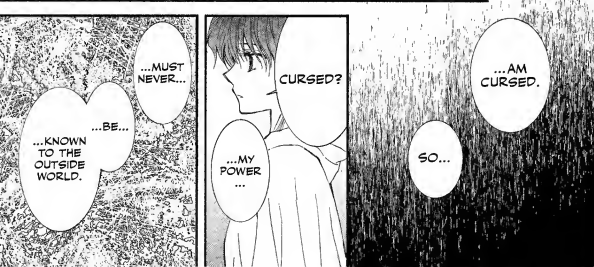
MY
FRIENDS
AND I...



BLUE
DRAGON
...

I AM
NOT YOUR
ENEMY.









LEAVE
THIS
PLACE.



YOUR
HAND...

...WAS
SO
WARM.

...JUST
ONE
THING.

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS
...



LET
ME
SAY...

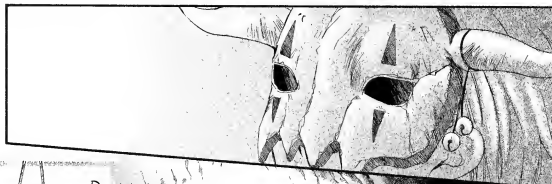


...BUT
IF THAT
WARM TOUCH
BELONGS TO
SOMEONE
WHO'S
CURSED...

I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT THIS
"CURSE"
IS...

IT
DOESN'T
BOTHER
ME.

...THEN
I DON'T
SEE THE
PROBLEM.



THEY'RE...
LEAVING...

DING



"AO..."

DING A FRIEND ...

"I
WANT TO WELCOME
YOU AS A
FRIEND."

"AO..."

"I JUST
WANTED
TO MAKE
FRIENDS."

...FEELS
LIKE
IT'S
BEING
TORN
APART.

MY
HEART
...

TH-
THMP

TH-
THMP

I'D
FORGOTTEN...

...ALL
ABOUT
THAT.





THEY
CAME
BACK.

THERE.

STAND
BACK,
YOUR
HIGH-
NESS.

AH
—!

G
I
J
A?

DISPOSE
OF
THEM!

WH-WHO
ARE
THESE
PEOPLE?



YOU'RE
STILL
USING
THE
FIST THAT'S
TEN TIMES
STRONGER
THAN
AVERAGE.

But
don't worry!
I won't use
my power
on ordinary
people.

BONK

I've been
holding
them off.

H
Y
A
H

They want
to eliminate us to
keep the Blue
Dragon
secret.



Agh!

HEY!
THERE'S
NOT
ENOUGH
ROOM IN
HERE FOR
THAT!

SWING

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!

It's
danger-
ous!

WHY
MUST
YOU DO
THIS?

HAK!



**R
M
M
B
L**



**K
A-
B
O
O
M
F**

THE
ENTRANCE
IS
BLOCKED!

PRINCESS
YONA AND THE
OTHERS ARE
DOWN THAT
TUNNEL...!



"...THE
SAME
THING
HAPPEN
AGAIN."



"I'LL
TRY NOT
TO LET..."

WHAM

I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE LET
HER GO.

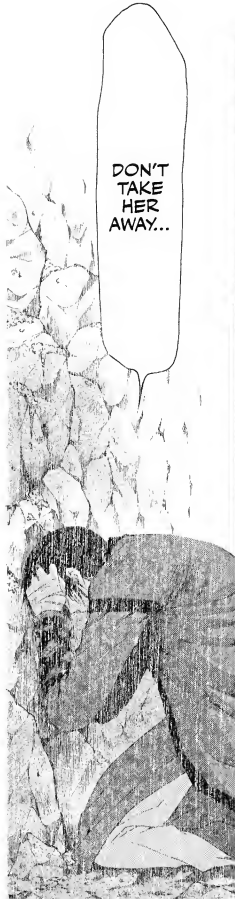


HOW
COULD I...

...THIS
WOULD
HAPPEN?!

WHY
DIDN'T I
GUESS...

I NEVER
SHOULD
HAVE...



DON'T
TAKE
HER
AWAY...



KING
IL.

HOW
COULD
I NOT
PROTECT
HER
HERE?!



PLEASE
...



HAK...

I TRIED
TO DO
MY BEST
WITHOUT
YOU.

I'M
SCARED.

I DON'T
WANT TO
GIVE IN...

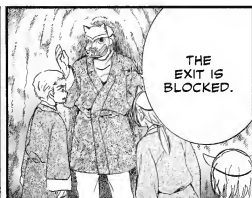
BUT I
WAS SO
FRIGHTENED
...

...THAT
I WENT
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

I
REALLY
AM

I FEEL
SO
WEAK.

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!





**I'M
GOING
TO
DIG.**

Really?

Oh?

SKRIK

PROTECTING
YOU IS MY
JOB.

He
doesn't
need to
tell me
what
to do!

G-
GIJA...

WHY
ARE YOU
BRINGING
OUT YOUR
CLAW?

SO
AM
I.

I'M
FEELING
A LITTLE
BETTER.

SKRIK

SKRIK

UHH...

WHAT
...?

...THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR
CONCERN.

AS
LONG
AS I'M
HERE...

SHWIP...





AAAGH!

I CAN'T
TAKE
THIS
ANY-
MORE!



UNH
...

THERE'S
SOMEONE
OTHER THAN
THE BLUE
DRAGON
WITH
CURSED
POWERS?

HE
REALLY
EXISTS?

AGH
...



BUT
HE...

...HE...

...TO
LIVE IN
THIS
HOLD.

I NEVER
WANTED
...

LET
ME
OUT!

LET
ME
OUT
OF
HERE!



BECAUSE
OF
HIM—!

HE'S
NOT
EVIL—

...SUCH
GENTLE
HANDS...

WHAT
WOULD
AN OUT-
SIDER
KNOW?!

...THE
BLUE
DRAGON'S
POWER A
CURSE?

WHY
IS...

HE
HAD...

AND
EVEN WHEN
THE BLUE
DRAGON DIES,
SOMEONE
ELSE'S CHILD
TAKES UP THE
MANTLE...

WE
LIVE IN
TERROR
OF THAT
POWER!

...MONSTER
WITH
DRAGON
EYES IS
ALWAYS
BORN TO
A MEMBER
OF OUR
TRIBE.

A...

WE...

WE LIVE
IN FEAR
UNTIL
WE DIE.

WE FEAR
THAT OUR
CHILD
MIGHT BE
NEXT!

FOURTEEN
YEARS
AGO...

...THE BLUE
DRAGON
USED HIS
UNHOLY
POWERS...

...AND
SLAUGHTERED
A GROUP OF
SOLDIERS.

HE
WAS...

...ONLY
FOUR
YEARS
OLD.

WE MUSTN'T
ALLOW ANYONE
TO SPREAD
THIS CURSE TO
THE OUTSIDE
WORLD.



WHEN A
BLUE DRAGON
IS BORN, WE
PLACE A MASK
ON HIM AND
DON'T ALLOW
HIM OUTSIDE.



THAT
IS OUR
LAW.

AND
YET...





D-D-
G



D-D-
G

D-D-
G

**HE'S
HERE!**

EVER SINCE,
WE'VE BEEN
SCARED THAT
THE ARMY
WOULD COME
AFTER US...

...SO WE
MOVED
HERE.



IF THIS
ISN'T A
CURSE,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT IS!

I CAN'T
BEAR
IT ANY-
MORE.









...BUT...

...I DO
KNOW
THAT HE
HAS...



I DON'T
KNOW...

...WHAT
HIS
"CURSE"
ENTAILS
...



...BREATH-
TAKINGLY...

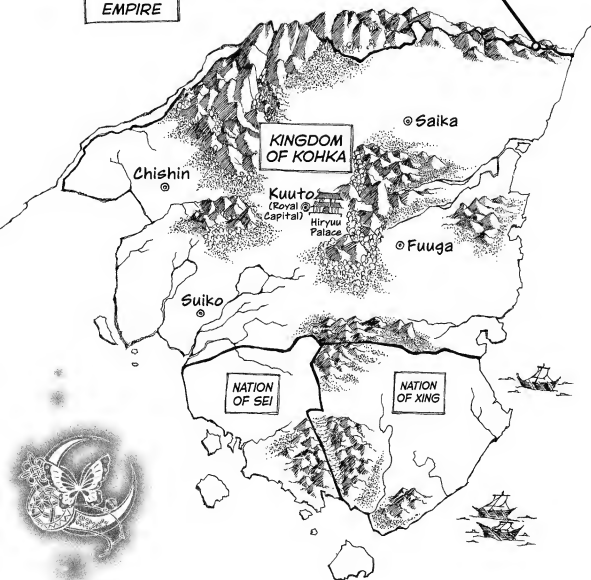
...BEAUTIFUL
EYES.

**YONA'S CURRENT
LOCATION**



Village of
the Blue
Dragon

**KAI
EMPIRE**





Born on February 3 in Kumamoto Prefecture in Japan, Mizuho Kusanagi began her professional manga career with *Yoiko no Kokoroe* (The Rules of a Good Child) in 2003. Her other works include *NG Life*, which was serialized in *Hana to Yume* and *The Hana to Yume* magazines and published by Hakusensha in Japan. *Yona of the Dawn* was adapted into an anime in 2014.

YONA OF THE DAWN

VOL.4

Shojo Beat Edition



STORY AND ART BY
MIZUHO KUSANAGI

English Adaptation/Ysabet Reinhardt MacFarlane
Translation/JN Productions
Touch-Up Art & Lettering/Lys Blakeslee
Design/Yukiko Whitley
Editor/Amy Yu

Akatsuki no Yona by Mizuho Kusanagi

© Mizuho Kusanagi 2011

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2011 by HAKUSENSHA, Inc., Tokyo.

English language translation rights arranged with

HAKUSENSHA, Inc., Tokyo.

The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication
are entirely fictional.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in
any form or by any means without written permission from the
copyright holders.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, February 2017



www.viz.com



www.shojobeat.com



PARENTAL ADVISORY

YONA OF THE DAWN is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains violence and suggestive themes.

ratings.viz.com